

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly add the following claims:

20. (new) A polyurethane bound covalently to sulphated hyaluronic acid or to a sulphated hyaluronic acid derivative obtainable by a process comprising supplementing a polyurethane solution with a salt of the said sulphated hyaluronic acid or of sulphated hyaluronic acid derivative, or with a solution thereof.

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21. (new) The polyurethane according to claim 20, wherein the said polyurethane comprises the repeating unit 4,4'-methylenebis (phenyl isocyanate).

22. (new) The polyurethane according to any of claims 20 or 21, wherein the said sulphated hyaluronic acid is selected from the group consisting of :

- A₁) O-sulphated hyaluronic acid, and
B₁) N-sulphated hyaluronic acid.

23. (new) The polyurethane according to any of claims 20 or 21, wherein the said sulphated hyaluronic acid derivative is selected from the group consisting of :

- A₂) O-sulphated hyaluronic acid derivative, and
B₂) N-sulphated hyaluronic acid derivative.

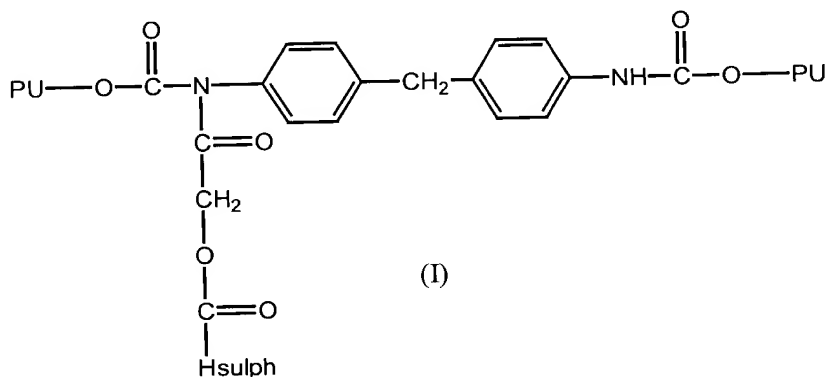
24. (new) The polyurethane according to claim 23, wherein the hyaluronic acid derivatives used to prepare the said sulphated hyaluronic acid A₂ and B₂ are selected from the group consisting of :

- the partial esters of hyaluronic acid containing at least one free carboxylic function and the remaining carboxylic function esterified with alcohols of the aliphatic, aromatic, arylaliphatic, cycloaliphatic, heterocyclic alcohol, and

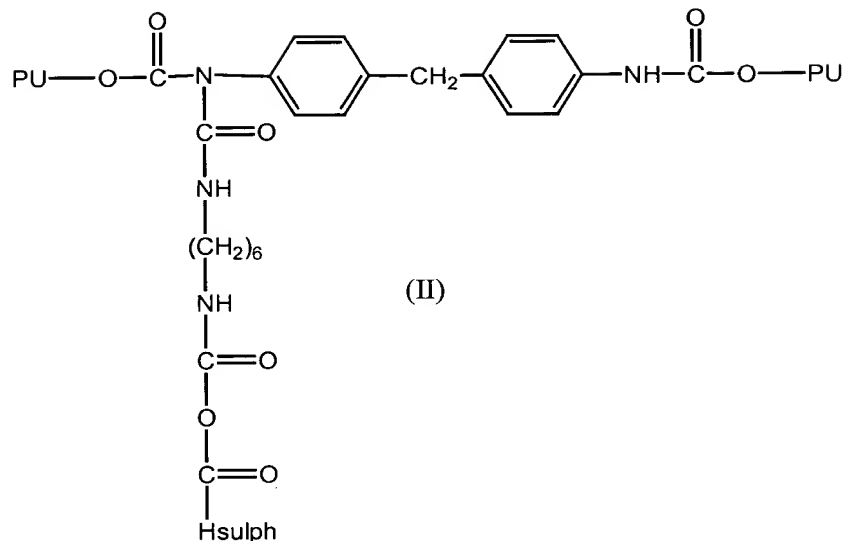
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- the partial crosslinked esters containing at least one free carboxylic function and the remaining carboxylic functions are esterified with the alcoholic function of the same hyaluronic acid molecule or of a different hyaluronic acid molecule,
- the partial crosslinked esters containing at least one free carboxylic function reacted with an aliphatic, aromatic, arylaliphatic, cycloaliphatic or heterocyclic polyalcohol, and wherein crosslinking is thereafter generated by means of spacer chains.

25. (new) The polyurethane according to any of claims 20, 21 or 24 of formula (I)



or formula (II)



wherein PU is a residue of the polyurethane chain, Hsulph is a residue of the sulphated hyaluronic acid or a residue of a sulphated hyaluronic acid derivative containing at least one free carboxylic function.

26. (new) Haemocompatible material comprising at least one polyurethane according to any of claims 20, 21 or 24.

27. (new) Haemocompatible material consisting of at least one polyurethane according to any of claims 20, 21 or 24.

28. (new) The haemocompatible material according to claim 26, further comprising a pharmaceutically active substance.

29. (new) The haemocompatible material according to claim 28, wherein said pharmaceutically active substance is selected from the group consisting of antibiotics, antiinfective, antimicrobial, antiviral, cytostatic, antitumoral, anti-inflammatory, wound healing agents, anaesthetics, cholinergic or adrenergic agonists or antagonists, antithrombotic, anticoagulant, haemostatic, fibrinolytic, thrombolytic agents, proteins or their fragments, peptides, polynucleotides, growth factors, enzymes and vaccines.

30. (new) The haemocompatible material according to any of

claims 28 or 29, further comprising at least one natural, synthetic or semisynthetic polymer.

31. (new) The haemocompatible material according to claim 30, wherein said natural polymer is selected from the group consisting of collagen, collagen coprecipitates and glycosamino glycans, cellulose, polysaccharides in the form of gels such as chitin, chitosan, pectin or pectic acid, agar, agarose, xanthane, gellan, alginic acid or the alginates, polymannan or polyglycans, starch and natural gums.

32. (new) The haemocompatible material according to claim 30, wherein said semisynthetic polymer is selected from the group consisting of collagen crosslinked with aldehydes, dicarboxylic acids or their halides, diamines, derivatives of cellulose, hyaluronic acid, chitin or chitosan, gellan, xanthane, pectin or pectic acid, polyglycans, polymannan, agar, agarose, natural gum and glycosamino glycans.

33. (new) The haemocompatible material according to claim 30, wherein said synthetic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, polydioxanes, polyphosphazenes, polysulphonic resins and PTFE.

34. (new) The haemocompatible material according to any of claims 28, 29, 31, 32 or 33 in the form of sponges, films, membranes, threads, tampons, non-woven fabrics, microspheres, nanospheres, gauzes, gels or guide channels.

35. (new) Industrial or medical articles or devices made with or coated with the haemocompatible material according to any of claims 28, 29, 31, 32 or 33.

REMARKS